

# SHE RUNS GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIP

April 2021 - October 2021



FEMME FIRST FOUNDATION



# ABOUT FEMME FIRST FOUNDATION

Femme First Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organisation committed to amplifying women's leadership in Indian politics. It is an undeniable fact that politics encompasses all the elements of the society, making it the most influential route to effect positive change. Keeping this in mind, we are working to nurture and groom women political leaders to build a better world.

**Vision:** A world where leaders are truly representative of the people they lead.

**Mission:** We seek to amplify leadership of women in Indian politics through the following ways:

- Make politics more attractive as a career option
- Reduce the entry-barriers
- Enhance the quality of representation
- Build a network of women politicians
- Amplify impact





# FOUNDER'S NOTE



**Ms. Angellica Aribam**  
Founder, *Femme First*  
Foundation

It gives us immense pleasure to present India's first fellowship for women in politics - *She Runs Government Fellowship*. Wondering why do women politicians need a specialised fellowship? Let me share my story.

Having faced racism throughout my life, I joined politics as a 20-year-old believing it to be the best way to change the status quo. After two election victories within months, I was elevated to national politics. For five years, I lived and breathed politics. It was a great learning curve. But navigating the labyrinth of the political world is tough for everyone, especially women. Due to our patriarchal society, our political system is mired with sexism - denial of opportunities to women, tokenism, physical and sexual violence, online trolling etc.

To push back and survive, women constantly endeavor to upskill and equip themselves with new ideas and best practices of politicking. With no organization in India focusing on women politicians and no intra-party institutional support, it isn't easy. Additionally as a first-generation woman in politics, I wished I had a mentor who could show me the ropes and guide me.

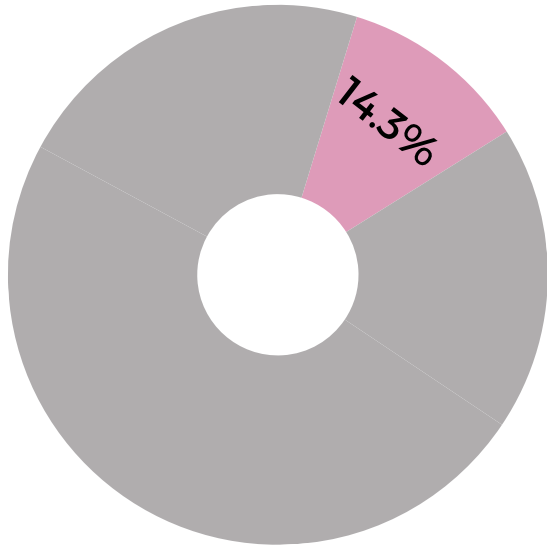
During my time as a fellow at *Vital Voices*, an American NGO by Hillary Clinton, I received mentorship from former women prime ministers and formed strong bonds with women politicians from across geographies. The intensive *Public Narrative* workshops by Prof Marshall Ganz and his team at *Harvard Kennedy School* made me more aware about myself and in effect, the people around me, instilling in me a stronger purpose and mission. It reaffirmed that soft skills are as crucial as hard skills for women in politics.

For a few years now, I've been reflecting on how to advance women's participation in politics based on all that I have seen and experienced firsthand - the good and the bad. *Femme First Foundation* is the result of that reflection and is fully committed to amplifying women's leadership in Indian politics. Our flagship program - *She Runs Government Fellowship* - is my way of paying it forward. It is designed with the opportunities I got and wished more women had; and the opportunities I wished somebody had given me. I hope you'll make the most of it.





# THE PROBLEM



- India ranks 142 out of 193 countries in women's representation in parliaments
- There are only 14.3% women in the Lower House of India's bicameral Parliament - much below the global average of 25.1%. The figure is more dismal in the State Legislative Assemblies with an average of 8%
- The 2019 Parliamentary elections, however, elected the highest number of women (78 out of 543 seats) to the Lok Sabha

This lack of representation translates to less diverse decision making bodies where the needs of all sects of society are not addressed.







# IMPACT

## She Runs Government Dialogues



**International platform** to discuss on how to advance women's political participation



**1 Million+** Views



**15** political leaders from across the World

## Gendered Leadership Course

Enrolled and engaged with **100 learners in 3** cohorts from diverse backgrounds across India.

## She Runs Government Awards

**147** nominees

**2700+** nominations

**30,000+** votes





# THE FELLOWSHIP

She Runs Government Fellowship is a six-month program that is focused on capacity-building, training, and mentoring of women in politics. It seeks to enhance and improve the quality of political representation of women.

## **The objectives of the programme are -**

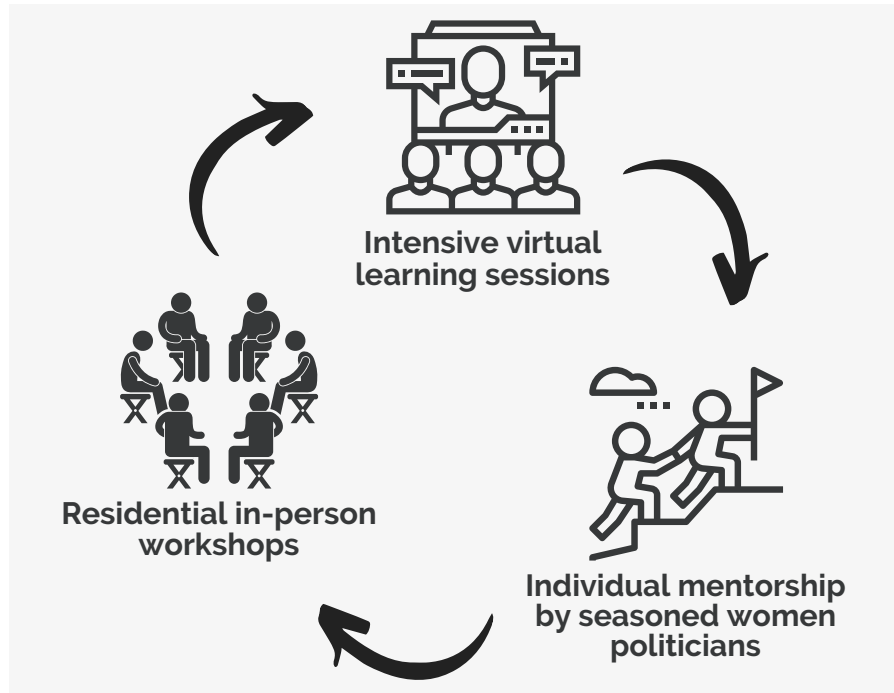
- To equip with skills and strategic knowledge to effectively run for office, legislate, and govern
- To develop a deeper understanding of the nuances and challenges of the Indian democratic system and various political theories, and to gain exposure to policy-framing under renowned practitioners and domain-experts
- Mentorship and learning to navigate the labyrinth of the political world directly from seasoned women politicians
- To build a network of women leaders, policy experts, and campaign professionals to form partnerships and draw upon shared knowledge and exchange best practices

She Runs Government  
**Fellowship**





# METHODOLOGY



## The three-pronged approach will:

- Provide academic & strategic grounding of democratic frameworks & policy-making
- Build fellows' personal brands through personalised Public Narrative trainings
- Up-skill with practical know-hows of electioneering & legislating
- Help learn the ropes directly from a mentor who is living the realities & tackling the challenges of being a woman in public life
- Access to a network of politicians and policy-makers

She Runs Government  
**Fellowship**







# MODULES

The fellowship will strengthen the candidate's capacities and capabilities across the following:



## Electioneering

- Campaign Design and Management
- Advocacy for Politics
- Constituency and Stakeholder mapping
- Resource Mobilisation



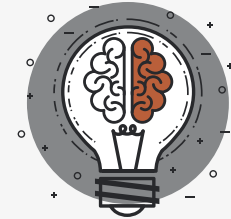
## Politics & Policy

- Public Policy Analysis
- Gender Mainstreaming in Policy
- Constitutional frameworks
- Governance
- Legislation
- Foreign Policy



## Personal Skills

- Public Narrative\*
- Effective Communication using technology & media
- Intersectionality in Leadership



## Ideologies

- Political theories of Indian parties
- Theories & Waves of Feminism
- Organisational Behaviour & Leadership

\*In the first two months, Teaching Fellows & Coaches from Harvard Kennedy School's Public Narrative team will work with the Fellows individually on their personalised stories of Self, Us, & Now

Individual mentorship will be during the residential gathering, with virtual follow-up from July-October





# FACULTY & MENTORS\*

(\*alphabetically)



**Amb. Nirupama Rao**  
Former Foreign  
Secretary, Govt of India



**Annu Tandon**  
Former Lok Sabha  
MP



**Atishi**  
MLA, Aam Aadmi  
Party



**Chakshu Roy**  
Head of outreach - PRS  
Legislative



**Charu Pragya**  
National Media  
Panelist, BJP



**Dr. Sasmit Patra**  
Rajya Sabha MP,  
Biju Janata Dal



**Dr. Shashi Tharoor**  
Lok Sabha MP,  
Congress



**Juhie Singh**  
Spokesperson,  
Samajwadi Party



**Manira Alva**  
Vice President, Vital  
Voices



**Mukta Tilak**  
MLA, BJP & former  
Mayor, Pune City



**Pragya Tiwari**  
Editor, Indian Policy  
Collective



**Priyanka Chaturvedi**  
Rajya Sabha MP, Shiv  
Sena



**Prof. G Mohan Gopal**  
Former VC, National Law  
School of India University



**Prof. Rajeev Gowda**  
Former Rajya Sabha  
MP, Congress



**Renuka Chowdhary**  
Former Union  
Minister & MP



**Shaina NC**  
Spokesperson, BJP



**Sushmita Dev**  
Former Lok Sabha  
MP, Congress

**EMILY'S LIST**  
  
 **HARVARD  
Kennedy School**

**& many more..**





# PROGRAM & APPLICATION DETAILS

**CLICK [HERE](#) TO APPLY**

<b>Application deadline:</b>	28th February 2021
<b>Shortlisted applicants' interviews:</b>	5th - 10th March 2021
<b>Selected Fellows list:</b>	15th March 2021

## **Timeline:**

- April to June 2021 :** Virtual learning (approx. 6 hours/month)
- 24th to 27th June 2021 :** Residential workshop (Venue yet to be fixed)
- July to October 2021 :** Virtual learning + Mentoring sessions

## **Eligibility criteria:**

- Women who have **contested election at any level** i.e college, university, RWA, local govt, MLA etc
- Women in **nominated political party positions** for at least 6 months
- Women who have **worked in civil-society/media/policy organisations** for at least 2 years
- Women who are/were **LAMP/Acumen/Gandhi/Teach for India** Fellows and aspire to join politics

If you don't fit in any of the above but think you deserve a seat, write to us at [contact@femmefirst.org](mailto:contact@femmefirst.org)

## **Intake: Only 15 women, so as to ensure maximum impact on their growth.**

A nominal admission fee of INR 20,000 will be charged where as the overall program cost is INR 2,00,000 per person. However, financial constraint should not be an obstacle for application. Admission fee waivers (up to 100% scholarship) are available on merit-cum-means basis.





# PAST SPEAKERS



**Margaret Alva,**  
Former Governor & Union  
Minister



**Brinda Karat**  
Former MP, Rajya  
Sabha



**Aditi Singh**  
MLA, Rae Bareilly



**Jothimani**  
MP, Lok Sabha



**Lalitha Kumaramangalam,**  
Former NCW Chief &  
Member, BJP



**Rachel Reese**  
Mayor of Nelson, New  
Zealand



**Oana Bizgan,**  
MP, Romania



**Adirana Hinojosa,**  
Former MP, Mexico



**Rafiul Alom Rahman,**  
Founder, The Queer  
Muslim Project



**Sunaina Arya**  
Editor of Dalit Feminist  
Theory (A Reader)



**Prianka Rao**  
Lawyer & Policy  
Analyst



**Nazia Erum,**  
Author



**Yashshri Soman**  
Public Policy  
Specialist



**Nishtha Gautam,**  
Opinion Editor - The  
Quint



**Padmaja Joshi**  
Editor, Times Now





# TESTIMONIALS FROM THE GENDERED LEADERSHIP COURSE



*Really appreciate how feminist literature from across the world is discussed and then grounded in the context of India. This course offers as much to me as a researcher, as it does to me as a woman.*

- Apurupa Gorthi, Researcher



*The program has not only provided me with an understanding of the importance of feminist model of leadership but also enriched my understanding of the entire discourse in general. In a short time, it taught me valuable lessons which I'll always take forward with me.*

- Gautam Devarakonda, Engineer



*What a wonderfully designed course to stimulate ones interest in looking at policy and leadership from the gender lens. Also, thankful to have met so many bright women from all walks of life and listen to their thoughts and lived experiences!*

- Kratika Choubey, Development Professional



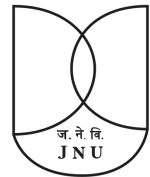
*The course is very considerably designed, catering to both beginners and intermediate-level learners. The deep dive into feminism, understanding not just the goals but real-life strategies to achieve them distinguishes it from classroom teaching.*

- Krati Mittal, Architect





# FEATURES





# TEAM

## Core Team



**Ms. Angellica Aribam**  
Founder



**Ms. Ankita Phalle**  
Programme Manager



**Ms. Ishita Arora**  
Partnerships Manager

## Advisorsy Board



**Ms. Margaret Alva**  
Former Governor & Union  
Minister



**Ms. Annu Tandon**  
Samajwadi Party member &  
Former Lok Sabha MP



**Ms. Priyanka Chaturvedi**  
Rajya Sabha MP & Deputy  
leader, Shiv Sena



**Dr. Sasmit Patra**  
Rajya Sabha MP &  
Spokesperson, Biju Janata dal



**Ms. Shaina NC**  
Spokesperson,  
Bhartiya Janata Party





# CONNECT



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Femme First Foundation



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